



If you are planning a trip outside the United States, I hope you will find the following resources helpful in preparing for your trip. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to [contact](#) my office.

Should you have any problems in obtaining or renewing your passport and need assistance, information on how to open a case file can be found on my Casework Resolution web page.

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### Passports

A passport is an internationally recognized travel document that verifies the identity and nationality of the bearer. A valid U.S. passport is required to enter and leave most foreign countries. Only the [U.S. Department of State](#) has the authority to grant, issue, or verify U.S. passports.

Normal processing time to receive a passport is ordinarily 6 weeks. If you are in a hurry, for an expedited fee and payment of two-way overnight mail delivery, a passport can be received within 2 weeks. For life or death emergency, call the [National Passport Information Center](#) at 1-877-487-2778.

### Relevant Links

[Department of State Passport Services](#)

[How to Get a Passport](#)

[How to Renew a Passport](#)

[Print Passport Application](#)  
[Locate Nearest Local Passport Acceptance Agent](#)  
[How to Get a Passport in a Hurry](#)  
[How to Find Out About the Status of Your Application](#)  
[Lost or Stolen Passport](#)  
[Passport Frequently Asked Questions](#)

### Foreign Entry Requirements/Visas

Before traveling abroad, you will need to check with the country or countries you will be visiting to determine what, if any, entry requirements you must fulfill prior to your travel, such as a visa or immunization requirements.

### Relevant Link

[Foreign Entry Requirements](#)  
[Foreign Consular Offices in the United States](#)

### Emergencies and Warnings

The State Department's [Office of American Services and Crisis Management \(ACS\)](#) administers the Consular Information program, which informs the public of conditions abroad that may affect their safety and security. Consular Information Sheets, Public Announcements, and Travel Warnings are vital parts of this program.

In addition, ACS supports the work of our overseas embassies and consulates in providing emergency services to Americans in cases of arrest, death, crime victimization, repatriation, medical evacuation, temporary financial assistance and welfare-and-whereabouts cases.

### Relevant Links

[Travel Warnings, Consular Information Sheets, and Public Announcements](#)  
[Crisis Awareness and Preparedness](#)  
[Emergency Services for U.S. Citizens](#)  
[Get Help in a Foreign Country](#)  
[Important Telephone Numbers for Travelers](#)  
[Travel Registration](#)  
[Online Brochure – U.S. Consuls Help Americans Abroad](#)  
[Online Brochure – Crisis Abroad – What the State Department Does](#)

### Country Information

The [U.S. Department of State](#) and the [Central Intelligence Agency \(CIA\)](#) provide information about the background, geography, people, history, government, political conditions, economy, and other useful material for countries around the world.

### Relevant Links

[Country Background Notes](#)

[CIA World Fact Book  
Regional Information](#)

### **U.S. Embassies and Consulates**

Many U.S. Diplomatic Missions abroad have information online.

Relevant Link

[U.S. Embassies and Consulates Websites](#)  
[Key Officers of Foreign Service Posts](#)

### **Medical and Travelers' Health Information**

Before going abroad, travelers should learn what medical services their health insurance will cover overseas. A U.S. consular officer can assist in locating appropriate medical services for an American citizen who becomes seriously ill or injured abroad, but the payment of hospital and other expenses is the responsibility of the traveler. The Bureau of Consular Affairs provides information on their website relevant to medical emergency information for Americans traveling abroad.

In addition, the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) provides a resource page on health information for international travelers. The [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) also provides information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad.

### **Relevant Links**

[Consular Affairs Medical Information](#)  
[Travelers' Health - Centers for Disease Control](#)  
[Travelers' Health - WHO Infectious Disease Outbreak News](#)

### **Other Travel Information**

[A to Z Help for Americans Abroad](#)  
[Exchange Rates](#)  
[Safety Issues](#)  
[Road Safety Overseas](#)  
[Travel Information Brochures](#)  
[Tips for Traveling Abroad](#)  
[Travel Tips for Older Americans](#)  
[Travel Tips for Students](#)  
[Travel Tips for Travelers with Disabilities](#)  
[Travel Tips for Women Traveling Alone](#)  
[Authentication of Documents for Use Abroad](#)  
[Overseas Security Advisory Council](#)

### **U.S. Customs Inspection**

All persons, including U.S. citizens returning to the United States, are inspected by [U.S. Customs and Border Protection \(CBP\)](#)

Officers upon arrival at a port-of-entry to the United States. There are four separate inspections: Public Health, Immigration, Customs, and Agriculture. CPB Officers will conduct the Immigration, Customs, and Agriculture components of the inspections process. If a traveler has health concerns, he/she will be referred to a Public Health Officer for separate screening.

### **Relevant Links**

[Customs Information for Travelers Abroad](#)

[Know Before You Go/Regulations for&nbsp;U.S.&nbsp;Residents](#)

[Customs Travel Alerts and Restricted/Prohibited Goods](#)

[Bringing Agricultural Products into the&nbsp; United States](#)

[Sample Customs Declaration Form](#)

[Customs FAQs for&nbsp;U.S.&nbsp;Residents Who Travel Abroad](#)